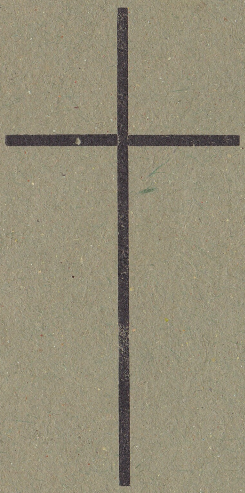
ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MILNROW

The Messenger



DECEMBER, 1971

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T H E

M E S S E N G E R

*

In this issue:

- United Service

- Christmas at Milnrow & Littleborough:
  Worship -
  Carols -
  Entertainment

- Parties & Pantomimes

- Pilots' Progress

*

DECEMBER

1971

Price 2p

Dear Friends,

Have you got into the Christmas spirit yet? Whether we like it or not, we are injected with 'Christmas' a little earlier each year. One wag has said that you've got to shop early for Christmas or else you will find the shops filled with Easter Eggs! Whatever criticisms we may wish to make with regard to Christmas commercialism, there is one point which is sometimes missed. Christmas is the one time of the year when something of the Christian faith and its message of hope and peace escapes from our churches and surges through the streets. Why shouldn't stores let people who never go near a church hear Silent Night, even if there is nothing so noisy as clamouring Christmas shoppers? If Christmas is a traditional time to be generous and kind-hearted and not selfish, then meterial things can be the outward forms of such sacrifice. But material goods can never be a substitute for love. A child may get an expensive toy for Christmas, yet this can never make up for a loveless and insecure home. The material and the spiritual, the outward and the inward must work together in harmony.

In our Church life at Christmas, we try to do just this. In worship and song, in fellowship and harmony, we make known the good news that God has come in Christ. Please make some effort to share in the worship of the churches this Christmas. If you are unable to come for health reasons then there are the carol singing parties from both chuches. I will also be taking communion to the homes of the housebound and elderly, if this is called for. The United Service at Littleborough on the 12th December, is meant to be a festival of song. May I urge the St. Stephen's congregation to support this as if it were in their own church. Transport is provided. An extra half hour given up at either end of the morning is small sacrifice for the benefits of the occasion.

Christmas is essentially a children's occasion, We get used to the presence of the children being present during our morning services but rarely at night. There are two carol services arranged on Sunday 19th December in the evening, which could well be enjoyed by children as well as adults. Let's try to unite our congregations together, whether they worship in different places or different times. In this way we can unite our praise and worship the new-born King.

Mrs. Jenkins, the family and I wish you every spiritual blessing and hope that the enclosed greeting card will remind you of our thoughts, and our privilege in serving you.

Yours sincerely,

Glyn Jenkins

****

IN MEMORIAM

STEPHEN CALOW of 31 Wellington Street, Milnrow. Stephen was tragically killed in a motor-bike accident in Accrington on Tuesday 16th November. He was 16 years of age. The funeral was held on Monday 22nd November, conducted by our minister. We extend to Mrs. Jean Calow and the family and relatives our deepest sympathy and sorrow.

****

GOOD WISHES

To Mrs. Janice Hutchinson on the birth of a daughter - Emma.

To Revd. T. Vause of Bamford, recovering from an operation

To many other people from both churches who are in hospital or who have been been in hospital recently.

NOTE OF THANKS

Mrs. Sheila Jenkins thanks all those who sent her gifts of flowers and cards during her stay in hospital, and for the many who expressed their good wishes.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS:

Dec.	5th	Luke 2: 1 - 14 (The Plan Fulfilled)
	12th	UNITED SERVICE
	19th	Acts 4: 5- 13 (The Power Jesus Brings)
	26th	Colossians 1: 1-2, 11- 18 (Now let it work)
Jan.	2nd	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11- 18 (God's Standards)

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

An announcement concerning the nationwide voting on the scheme of union is expected in the press on January 5th. Church secretaries should have their own copies of the results 24 hours earlier.

CAROL SINGING In the week preceding Christmas our churches will be arranging Carol singing parties. The date for St. Stephen's is Monday 20th December. It is hoped that the party will include Pilots and all those adults interested in helping. On Wednesday 22nd December the Littleborough Church will be going carol singing. Arrangements are being made to visit some of the wards of Birch Hill that evening. Help from people from both our churches will be welcome on either of these evenings.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DISCO

A "Disco" is being planned at St. Stephen's on Saturday January 8th at 7.30 p.m. This is aimed to attract the young people from all our congregational churches in Rochdale District. Details will be sent round to the churches shortly. We ask St. Stephen's and Littleborough young people to hold this date in mind.

URGENTLY REQUIRED - more Messenger distributors in Milnrow. Anyone willing to help please contact Mrs. J. Kay.

CHRISTMAS AT ST STEPHEN'S

CHRISTMAS DANCE - Saturday - 11th December; Dancing from 7.00pm. Tickets available price: 25p (adults), 15p (children) including refreshments.

UNITED SERVICE AT LITTLEBOROUGH - See page 9
Sunday - 12th December

CAROL SERVICE - Sunday - 19th December.
Conducted by Mr. A. Cooper of Castleton.
Special music by the choir.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - This will begin at 11.45 pm. and will be a candlelight service. Any candles available for the lighting of the church may be handed to the church secretary on the Sunday before. It is also hoped that members of the congregation will bring their own candles for the service.

BOXING DAY SERVICE - Sunday - 26th December - 11.0 am.
Conducted by Mrs. E. Gillon
There will be no evening service.

****

PANTOMIME

The Junior Church have arranged a visit to the Oldham Colliseum on Monday afternoon 3rd January, to which all the children in the Beginners, Primary and Junior departments have been invited. Names of children going should be confirmed immediately if not already done, along with 15p for each child. Transport will be provided from the church at 1.45 pm.

There will be few seats available at 50p each for parents of small children. Enquiries to Mrs. D. Emmott.

****

MEN ONLY

Will men please note that the "OVER 21 CLUB" have arranged a dinner at Ibbotsons' Private Hotel on Wednesday 19th January at 7.30 p.m. The menu and cost will be known at a later date.

After the meal there will be a speaker and a short business meeting.

Any men wishing to go please let Mr. J. Emmott have their names as soon as possible.

"LOVE" AT HALLFOLD

Our Senior Department "played away" on Sunday 21st November; they took the service at Hallfold Congregational Church. The service, which is on the theme of "Love" has been compiled, written and produced by Senior Department scholars. The approach is, as one might expect, modern but the sequence roughly follows our usual Sunday morning service. The scholars approached the idea of taking the service with some trepitition and that is one reason why it was decided to conduct the first experiment away from St. Stephen's, but after congratulations from both young and old at Hallfold they now feel much more confident. There are plans to conduct the service in other churches including St. Stephen's on the 9th January. We look forward to this very much.

GETTING SHIP!SHAPE

We are pleased to report that the St. Stephen's Pilot Company is well underway and sailing along with about 20 Able Seamen aboard. During the last few weeks the Senior Pilots have been working very hard at home on the three P's (prayers, posters and pictures) and on Pilot nights they have been busy taking tests on road signs, knots and Bible readings etc. This work is all part of the crash course to attain the level of "Acting Able Seaman" and several Pilots have already been awarded the Learning and Praying Crests. We must not forget to mention, however, that they are allowed a little time off for orange juice and an occasional game with the younger pilots.

WOMEN'S GUILD

At the November meeting, the speaker was Mr. Charles Connelly who spoke about Education - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Afterwards he answered questions put to him by some of the 30 members present.

Christmas Dinner at the Royal Toby - December 7th Coach will be outside school at 7.30 p.m.

CALLING ALL CAROLLERS

A warm and hearty welcome awaits you if you would care to join with the choir for a special service of carols. Men are especially needed and a practice is to be held on Thursday 16th December at 7.30 pm. Don't be backward at coming forward; come and enjoy yourself and help to make the evening service on the 19th December a real success.

M.M. MONEY

Proceeds from this years Michaelmas Market are in the region of £250. Many thanks to all concerned; Mr. Alec Rae and the M.M. Committee, coupon sellers, those who spent so much time throughout the year making goods, home foods, etc., and all who helped in any way.

If you find a white raffle ticket with a number 27 at the bottom of your handbag or somewhere, you are advised to contact Mr. Rae forthwith.

RENDERED FROM CEASAR

We have received £163.57 from the Inland Revenue. This is a repayment of tax paid by those of our members who have joined the Covenant Giving Scheme. If you pay tax at the Standard Rate you have nothing to lose by joining the scheme and the church has a lot to gain. Please have a word with Mr. K. Hey who will explain to you how the scheme works but you will be under no obligation to join if you do not wish to do so.

To avoid confusion on this subject we wish to point out that "covenanting" has nothing at all to do with the 10th Commandment.

****

C.C.W.M. Note - Missionary Boxes will be received at Milnrow during the morning service on Sunday, 5th December.

CREATION

(by a member of St. Stephen's Junior Church)

First the Lord made the sun and man.
Second he made our world.
And third he made all the animals,
And then he made the herd.

He made a herd of eliphants, of Cheetahs and kangaroos.
And then he made men and ladies too.
The first man was called Adam;
The first lady was called Eve.

And it took our Lord seven days
To make our world.
And then he said "That is good,
That is very good."

Then he said "All have babies,
Animals and ladies."
Then he skipped back -
Back up in heaven.

Then he sent down Jesus,
And watched up high in heaven.
He is still up there now,
Watching you and me.

.....Catherine Baranyai
(aged 8)

****

SEE ALL

Easy to get depressed these days,
Easy to be afraid,
Easy to think the world's gone mad,
Easy for dreams to fade.
But news we hear of things we fear
Should never blind us to
The kindly, splendid, lovely things
So many people do.

From "The Friendship Book" by Francis Gay.

U N I T E D

S E R V I C E

Both Littleborough and Milnrow congregations will join in worship at LITTLEBOROUGH on

Sunday 12th December at 11.00

for a family service entitled

"C H R I S T M A S I N S O N G"

Music by the joint choirs of both churches

Soloist: Mrs. Audrey Baines

Bus leaves St. Stephen's at 10.30 and should return by 12.45. All Milnrow people are urged to come and support this venture as much as Littleborough folk support united services when they are held at Milnrow.

TOY SERVICES

LITTLEBOROUGH - at the united Service on 12th December

MILNROW - on 5th December

It would have been nice to have had a joint toy service but there are obvious practical difficulties involved. However, the more important point is to be generous in our giving to those children who might not have such a good Christmas. Please bring along those toys which you have outgrown but which are in reasonable condition.

****

CHRISTMAS AT LITTLEBOROUGH

FOR THE TEENIES -

- THE CRECHE RAVE!UP

Saturday 11th December at 2.30 pm.

Mrs. A. Walls - Mrs. J. Law - Mrs. D. Leach will be pleased to receive gifts of fruit, jellies, cakes, cigars etc., for the littlies.

++++

FOR THE BEES -

- THE BUSY BEES GINGE

Wednesday 15th December at 8.00 pm.

Dinner and Dance at the Midway Hotel, Castleton. Coach leaves Littleborough Station at 7.30 p.m.

+++

FOR THE BOYS -

- THE MENS FELLOWSHIP FEAST

Tuesday 21st December

Don't delay to book your seat for this Annual Dinner at Dearnley Cottage Hotel

+++

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART -

- PANTOMIME AT OLDHAM COLLISEUM

Saturday 1st Januaey at 1.45 pm.

Organised by Junior Church

.....AND THERE IS STILL TIME FOR WORSHIP

December 12th - Joint Service & Toy Service

December 19th - Carol Service at 6.0 p.m.

December 25th - CHRISTMAS DAY Service at 10.30 am.

==========

.....MEETINGS

1. Deacons Meeting at 7.45 on Monday 17th January
2. Annual Church Meeting at 7.45 on Monday 31st January.

==========

NO SOONER IS CHRISTMAS OVER THAN.....

HOLIDAY SLIDES & PHOTOGRAPHS -
- an exhibition and competition -
- Friday 28th January at 7.30 p.m.

****

AUTUMN FAIR
or was it WINTER WONDERLAND?

On a very bleak, Saturday afternoon with the added hazard of driving snow, the 'Autumn' Fair was held at Littleborough. More than one remark was made about the weather. Despite this, the church premises were warm and there was a good attendance of people. The opening ceremony took place in a relaxed manner with Counc. Austin Collegan in the chair and Counc. Rosemary Giffin, the Chairman of Littleborough Urban District Council declaring the fair open. The soloist was Mrs. Hoan Law who sang 'Bless this House' and 'I walk with God.' Mrs. Wallbank was the accompanist and our minister gave the vote of thanks.

Financially the fair appears as successful as last year, thanks to all those who worked so hard, and gave so generously.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

Dec. 5th	Mrs. A. Collins	Mr. J. Collins
12th	Mr. W.Holland	Mr. P. Whitehead
	(at United Service at Littleborough)	
19th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
26th	Mrs. L. Rawling	Mrs. A. Bruckshaw
Jan. 2nd	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae

DEACONS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS		Pianist EVENING WORSHIP
Dec. 5th	Miss M. Wood Mr. G. Whitworth	Mrs. E. Starkie
12th	Mrs. E. Starkie Mr. J. Emmott	Mrs. C. Hey
19th	Mr. K. Hey Mr. B. Clough	Mr. D. Logan
26th	NO EVENING SERVICE	
Jan. 2nd	Mr. H. Whitehead Mrs. A. Scaddon	Mrs. E. Starkie

COMMUNION ROTA

Jan. 2nd	Mr A. Roberts	Mr. G. Whitworth
Feb. 6th	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mrs. A. Scaddon

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Dec. 5th	Mrs. W. Prince	Mrs. W. Holland
12th	UNITED SERVICE AT LITTLEBOROUGH	
19th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. A. Collins
26th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. D. Hey
Jan. 2nd	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

Dec. 5th	Mrs. J. Calow	Mrs. Clowes
12th	Mrs. L. Prince	
19th	Mrs. N. Stott	
26th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. I. Collins
Jan. 2nd	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mrs. A. Wood
		Mrs. D. Howarth

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

December

Sun. 5th	11.00 am.	Mr. Allan Roberts -TOY SERVICE
	6.00 pm.	Mrs. E. Gillon (Communion)
	The C.C.W.M.	Boxes will be received am.
Mon. 6th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
	8.00 pm.	District Lay Preachers -Heywood
Tues. 7th		Women's Guild Dinner
		(Coach leaves at 7.30 pm.)
Wed. 8th	7.30 pm.	Deacons Meeting
Sat. 11th	7.00 pm.	Christmas Dance (See page 5)
	(also from 10.30 am. Church Officers' conference at Waddow Hall, Clitheroe)	
Sun, 12th	*11.00 am.	UNITED SERVICE AT LITTLEBOROUGH
		"CHRISTMAS IN SONG"
	*10.30 am.	Bus leaves St. Stephen's
	6.00 pm.	Film Service
Mon. 13th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
Tues.14th	7.30 pm.	Christian Education Council A.G.M. at Champness Hall.
Thur.16th	7.30 pm.	Choir Practice.
Sun. 19th	11.00 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Baptism)
	6.00 pm.	CAROL SERVICE - Mr.A. Cooper
Mon. 20th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
	6.30 pm.	Carol Singing
Fri.24th	11.45 pm.	CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Revd. G. Jenkins
Sun. 26th	11.00 am.	Mrs. E. Gillon
		NO EVENING SERVICE

January 1972

Sun. 2nd	11.00 am.	Revd. G. Jenkins
	6.00 pm.	" (Communion)
Mon. 3rd	1.45 pm.	Junior Church visit to Pantomime.

Choir practices for United Service will be announced.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes	Total	
Oct. 3rd	£30.53	£23.07	£53.60	Anniversary
10th	4.38	13.31	17.69	
17th	5.15	22.44	27.59	
24th	5.42	12.89	18.31	
31st	4.88	23.68	28.56	

December

Sun.	5th	10.30 am.	Mr. W. Caffrey (Heywood)
Tues.	7th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild (Christmas Supper)
	7th		Busy Bees "At Home"
Thur.	9th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
	10th	7.00 pm.	Film Evening "Life of Christ" Part 3.
Sat.	11th	2.30 pm.	Creche Party
Sun.	12th	11.00 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins JOINT FAMILY SERVICE
Wed.	15th	8.00 pm.	Busy Bees DINNER DANCE
Thur.	16th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	19th	10.30 am.	Mrs. E. Gillon
		6.00 pm.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Carol Service)
Tues.	21st	8.00 pm.	Mens Fellowship -ANNUAL DINNER
Sat.	25th	10.30 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Christmas Day)
Sun.	26th	10.30 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Family Communion)

January 1972

Sat.	1st	1.45 pm.	Junior Church Trip -Pantomime
Sun.	2nd	10.30 am.	Lay Preacher
Thur.	6th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
Fri.	7th	7.00 pm.	Film Evening (The Singapore Story)

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

Dec.	5th	Mrs. E. Holt
	12th	Mrs. J.A. Leach
	19th	Mrs. Jones
	26th	Mrs. Mellor
Jan.	2nd	Mrs. C. Hill

OFFERTORIES

Oct.	24th	£15.05
	31st	7.42
Nov.	7th	12.74
	14th	13.28
	21st	7.03

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

SIDESMEN

Dec. 5th	Mr. Booth	Mr. Ingham	
12th	Mr. Barker	Mr. Nairn	
19th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. Beaattie	10.30 am.
	Mr. Holt	Mr. Simpson	6.00 pm.
26th	Mr. H. Hill	Mr. Booth	
Jan. 5th	Mr. Ingham	Mr. Barker	

DEACONS COMMUNION ROTA

Dec. 26th	Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Simpson	10.30 am.
Jan. 9th	Mr. Beattie	Mr. Nairn	6.00 pm.

CRECHE ROTA

Dec. 5th	Mrs. Sprinks
12th	Mrs. S. Moss
19th	Mrs. B. Leach
26th	Mrs. B. Hartley
Jan. 2nd	Mrs. D. Mallinson

COFFEE ROTA

Dec. 5th	J. Simpson	A. Merrick
12th	B. Leach	B. Hartley
19th	S. Moss	W. Spinks
26th	K. Hill	P. Lightfoot
Jan 2nd	J. Hobbs	J. Horridge
9th	V. Crossley	A. Tomlinson

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Dec. 5th	"The Plan Fulfilled" Luke 2: v1 -14	Steven Moss
12th	JOINT FAMILY SERVICE	
19th	"THE POWER JESUS BRINGS" Acts 4: v5 -13	Mrs. K. Hill
26th	"Now Let it Work" Col: 1: v1 -2, 11 -18	Elizabeth Leach
Jan.2nd	"God's Standards" Lev. 2: v1 -2, 11 -18	Mr. F. Simpson

ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MILNROW

and

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*

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Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

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Littleborough.
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